

REMARKS/AUGUEMENTS

This communication is in response to the Office Action mailed June 29, 2005.

Claim Amendments

The claims have been amended to clarify to the Examiner that the elements are to be given patentable weight. That is, the claims have been cast into a definitive method claim form. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments clarify the scope of the claimed subject matter. Claim 31, already, clearly recited steps of a method as its elements. Finally, some claims have been cancelled.

Obviousness Rejections

We now turn to the art-based rejection. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 9, 11, 12, 16-24, 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over JP 6-69469 in view of Tanaka et al, JP 5-77637 and Mikoshiba et al. This rejection as applied to the amended and original claims is traversed for at least the reasons discussed below.

First, it should be appreciated that the subject matter recited in the claims is characterized by at least the following features:

(a) the mounting member is made of metal, and at least one engaging stepped face is previously formed onto an inner surface thereof at a boundary between a recessed portion and a non-recessed portion;

(b) the resin outer sleeve is formed to have a smooth outer surface at least at a portion to be located within the bore of the mounting member before it is being press fit into the bore of the mounting member; and the smooth outer surface at the location to be engaged with the engaging stepped face has an outside diameter larger than an inside diameter of the non-recessed portion and approximately equal to an inside diameter of the recessed portion; and

(c) the rubber bushing is press fit into the bore of the mounting member, one portion of the outer sleeve situated facing the non-recessed portion of the mounting member is compressed in diameter, while another portion of the outer sleeve situated facing the recessed portion of the mounting member expands in diameter by means of elastic recovery force in order to enter the recessed portion, so that the smooth outer surface of the outer sleeve deforms to produce an engaged stepped face thereon, so as to be engaged with the engaging stepped face of the mounting member to provide a resistance to dislodging of the rubber bushing from the mounting member in the axial direction.

The engaging stepped face is produced on the outer circumferential surface of the resin outer sleeve by utilizing the elastic recovery force after the resin outer sleeve being press fitted into the bore of the mounting member. Accordingly, the dislodging of the rubber bushing from

the mounting member in the axial direction can be effectively prevented by means of engagement between the engaging and engaged stepped faces, while permitting readily press-fitting operation of the resin outer sleeve into the mounting member.

The primary reference (JP 6-69469) fails to disclose the resin outer sleeve having a smooth outer circumferential surface before being press fit into the bore of the mounting member. Likewise, none of the secondary references (Tanaka et al, JP 5-77637 and Mikoshiba et al.) disclose the features (a), (b) and/or (c) of the claimed subject matter as listed above. As a result, the references, whether taken alone or in combination, do not disclose the combination of elements, for manufacturing a cylindrical vibration damping device, recited in claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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